

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An aqueous pigment paste free from binders and grinding resins, comprising based on its overall amount
 - (A) from 15 to 25% by weight of at least one mica pigment,
 - (B) from 0.45 to 0.75% by weight of at least one nonassociative thickener comprising at least one methacrylate copolymer based on C₁-C₆ alkyl (meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid,
 - (C) from 0.1 to 0.4% by weight of at least one organic amine,
 - (D) from 0.1 to 12% by weight of at least one nonionic surfactant, and
 - (E) at least 50% by weight of water.
2. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, ~~comprising based on its overall amount from 18 to 23% by weight of~~wherein the at least one mica pigment (A) is present in an amount from 18 to 23% by weight.
3. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~comprising based on its overall amount from 0.5 to 0.7% by weight of~~wherein the at least one nonassociative thickener (B) is present in an amount from 0.5 to 0.7% by weight.
4. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the thickener (B) contains in copolymerized form at least two different C₁-C₆ alkyl (meth)acrylate monomers.
5. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the thickener (B), based on its overall amount, contains from 40 to 60% by weight of methacrylic acid in copolymerized form.
6. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the organic amine (C) ~~is selected from the group of the~~comprises a tertiary amines.
7. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in~~ claim 6, wherein the tertiary amine (C) ~~is selected from the group of the~~comprises a hydroxylalkylamines.

8. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in~~ claim 7, wherein the hydroxyalkylamine ~~(C)~~ is dimethylethanolamine.
9. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, comprising based on its overall amount~~ wherein the organic amine (C) is present in an amount of from 0.2 to 0.3% by weight.
10. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, comprising based on its overall amount~~ wherein the nonionic surfactant (D) is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 10% by weight.
11. (Currently Amended) The paste ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, comprising based on its overall amount at least 55% by weight of~~ wherein the water is present in an amount that is at least 55% by weight.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of an~~ An aqueous coating material comprising the aqueous pigment paste free from binders and grinding resins, as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, for preparing, wherein the aqueous coating material is one of an aqueous effect coating material; or a color and effect, coating materials.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~use as claimed in~~ coating material of claim 12, wherein the aqueous coating materials ~~are~~ is an aqueous basecoat materials.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~use as claimed in~~ coating material of claim 12 ~~or 13,~~ wherein the aqueous coating materials ~~serve for producing~~ can produce a multicoat effect, or color and effect, paint systems.
15. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an aqueous effect or color and effect coating material by mixing the at least one pigment paste of claim 1 with at least one aqueous mixing varnish comprising at least one water-soluble and/or -dispersible binder ~~and homogenizing the resulting mixture, which comprises using at least one aqueous pigment paste free from binders and grinding resins, as claimed in any of claims 1 to 12,~~ in an amount such that the resulting aqueous effect or color and effect coating material comprises based on its overall amount

- from 2 to 6% by weight of at least one mica pigment (A),
 - from 0.1 to 2% by weight of at least one nonassociative thickener (B) comprising at least one methacrylate copolymer based on C₁-C₆ alkyl (meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid, and
 - from 0.02 to 2.4% by weight of at least one nonionic surfactant (D), and homogenizing the resulting mixture.
16. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ claim 15, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of random, alternating and block, linear, branched, ~~and comb~~ at least one of an addition (co)polymers of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomers or, a polyaddition resins, and/or a polycondensation resins, wherein the addition (co)polymer is at least one of a random (co)polymer, an alternating (co)polymer, and a block (co)polymer, and wherein the addition (co)polymer is at least one of linear, branched, and comb.
17. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ claim 16, wherein the addition (co)polymers of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomers ~~are selected from the group consisting of~~ is at least one of a (meth)acrylate (co)polymers and/or a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl esters, especially (meth)acrylate copolymers, and the polyaddition resins and/or polycondensation resins are ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ at least one of a polyesters, an alkyds, a polyurethanes, a polylactones, a polycarbonates, a polyethers, an epoxy resin-amine adducts, a polyureas, a polyamides, a polyimides, a polyester-polyurethanes, a polyether-polyurethanes, and/or polyester-polyether-polyurethanes, especially polyester-polyurethanes.